

LB-124
January 30, 1973

SENATOR SNYDER: Senator Carpenter, wasn't there something, I've asked a couple of times over the past two years concerning the state office building and this commission. I've heard conflicting statements and I wonder if you can help us clarify this for myself and especially the ones who are even newer than I am. What is the jurisdiction the legislature has regarding the state building commission? When I asked questions concerning our role in the new state office building I was told that we had none other than okaying the appropriations and that the Executive Department really had the sole authority in this area.

SENATOR CARPENTER: Well they do, but as I understand it, to the obvious control of the Governor over the building commission and the Governor last time, I think he did it openly because he, he didn't want the office building to be built for whatever his reasons were, he, was responsible I think to seeing that the building commission would not authorize the plan or things like that to proceed, and that's our problem today on these twelve offices, it'll be our problem on the office building if this body wants to attempt to build it. We can do nothing in the area of what we are talking about, without the permission of the building commission, which we created.

SENATOR SNYDER: Then am I correct, you're asking for a new building commission?

SENATOR CARPENTER: I'm asking to direct the Executive Board to bring in a bill with the recommendation, the establishment of a new building commission which I would presume would have to be composed of members elected and who hold state office in the state of Nebraska, outside of the legislature.

SENATOR SNYDER: And this will be as opposed to all laymen as it is now?

SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President I was just going to expand a little on Senator Snyder's question in that the bill which originally authorized the building under the bond procedure we did check a number of times with the Attorney General who indicated the legislature could not directly construct a building, it had to be done by the Executive side, and that particular bill however, carried a provision for a legislative committee to review only legislative facilities within the new state office building, whatever that might be and which we could constitutionally do, but we could not, at least according to the Attorney General at that time, directly contract for the construction of that particular building and we use the legislative committee as a means of approving final plans, but we could not have done it in a direct way, we could not do it directly.

SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President and members of the body, as a Cornhusker, if you can love a building, I love this building, if the building commission is designed by this legislature to preserve this building, I believe that it should do just that, and I would highly suggest to the building commission that in their approving design for the offices that are now existing in this building, they're not accomplishing the end that I would like to see them accomplish, I wouldn't like to see them be, done away with, but I would like to see them straighten up this Capitol Building.

SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes Senator Whitney, then Senator Syas.

SENATOR WHITNEY: I'm just trying to get information, will Senator Carpenter yield to a question please, or two?

SPEAKER: Will you yield Senator?